

other honors in between, Senator Coverdell's great legacy lives on. I ask that his life be remembered today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COUNCILMAN WILLIE COOK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WOOLSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on July 8, the city of Montgomery lost a great public servant. Councilman Willie Cook unexpectedly passed away after suffering a massive heart attack. He was only 53 years old.

Willie was not just a colleague; he was a trusted friend. Willie and I were first elected to office in the same year, 1999, and it was an honor to work in partnership with him to move our great city forward over the 9 years that we served together in the city government of our capital city of Montgomery, Alabama.

Willie was known to be a tireless advocate for those he represented in Council District 6. As the Montgomery Advertiser noted following his death, "Cook provided a strong public voice for his constituents and was an aggressive advocate for what he perceived as their best interests." I couldn't agree more.

Last Thursday, Willie was laid to rest at the Montgomery Memorial Cemetery after a memorial service at the convention center. Hundreds of friends, family, and admirers were in attendance to honor the life of a great city leader. It was a fitting way to pay tribute to someone as accomplished as Willie Cook.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife, Lorna; with his children Vaneka, Benito, and Christopher; with his five grandchildren; and with his parents, Willie Cook, Jr., and Daisy, as they continue to mourn the loss of their son, their husband, and their father.

Willie will surely be missed at our State capital, Montgomery, Alabama. He truly was a friend that I served with, and he made a big difference in our State capital. So I thank you for allowing me to honor his life today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FAIRNESS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee, which

I chair, has just issued the latest edition of our series of State-by-State snapshots of the economy. It notes that, in June, private sector employment grew in 32 States and the District of Columbia while the unemployment rate declined in 39 States and the District of Columbia. Yet the report also makes clear that our economic recovery is at a crossroads and still faces major challenges, in large part because of the staggering job losses caused by the policies of the prior administration.

You can see on this chart how a steady descent into a red valley of severe job loss began in December 2007. The red is the prior administration. The last month that the former President was in office, this country lost 790,000 jobs. The journey back up, under the Obama administration, began in early 2009 and coincided with the passage of the Recovery Act. As you can see, we have been trending in the right direction and gaining jobs these past few months.

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It's not victory, but it certainly is movement in the right direction.

But as our report notes, even if the private sector was currently creating jobs at the rate of 217,000 jobs per month, as occurred during the Clinton administration, the highest sustained rate of job creation in our Nation's history, it will still take over 3 years to recreate the 8.5 million private sector jobs lost during the Great Recession.

The lingering high unemployment rates, particularly the long-term unemployment rate, suggest that targeted actions such as our recent extension of unemployment insurance benefits are sorely needed to support growth and provide a safety net for the millions of families hurt by the recession.

But there is still much more that Congress can and should do, particularly to help small businesses recover.

As Chairman Bernanke pointed out today, we need to find ways to provide small, credit-worthy businesses with additional lending, something that I have supported and the Democrats have supported from day one.

Small businesses and establishments, these small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. labor market. Seventy-five percent of working Americans are employed at businesses with fewer than 250 employees.

But a study earlier this year by the Joint Economic Committee found that, in the wake of the financial crisis, limited access to capital and credit continues; and it has a serious impact on small business hiring.

The tough credit standards that banks are now imposing, even on credit-worthy small businesses, have hamstrung their ability to expand and create jobs.

You can see the results of that in this chart, which the Joint Economic Committee prepared. And this chart looks

at the business hiring by mid- and large businesses, and compares it with the small business hiring, which is still in decline.

In most recoveries, it is small businesses that are the first to hire. But in this recovery, we see that it is the mid-sized and the large businesses that are hiring, and that small businesses are not hiring, so they do need more support and more help in this economy.

One additional thing we should do is ensure that small businesses are able to compete fairly for the Federal contracts for which they are qualified. And the Federal Government contracts out roughly \$435 billion every year. And under current law, Federal agencies are required to establish contracting goals with at least 23 percent of all government buying targeted to smaller firms, because they are the backbone; they hire the majority of Americans.

But according to an analysis prepared by the American Small Business League of Federal data, some of the "small businesses" that have been awarded Federal contracts under the provision for small business contracts include some of the largest companies in America. Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Hewlett-Packard, AT&T and Rolls Royce. These are all extremely fine companies, but by no stretch of the imagination are these small companies.

That's why I urge my colleagues today to join me in supporting the Fairness and Transparency in Contracting Act of 2009, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Congressman HENRY JOHNSON. H.R. 2568 would modify the definition of small businesses in the Small Business Act to include the requirement that no publicly traded company can qualify as a small business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIGHT). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, may I request additional time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy the Chair is constrained, not to entertain, such a request. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mrs. MALONEY. Well, it would require the publication of a report; and, in short, it would require that small should actually mean small, and require fairness and transparency. So I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 5822, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2011

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-559) on the bill (H.R. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for